Syllabus
Spring 2019

Course Number: MUSI 574
Course Name: German Diction
Meeting Time: TR 9:25-10:40
Instructor: Patrick Harvey
Email: Pharvey119@gmail.com

Course Description

A study of the phonetic sounds of German and their relationships to rhythmic and melodic aspects of singing.

Course Objectives

1. Students will be able to accurately transcribe, speak and sing a given German text.
2. Students will be able to write, read and pronounce the International Phonetic Alphabet as it applies to singing in German.

Recommended Text

Odom, William and Benno Schollum. *German for Singers*, 2nd Edition.
Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Schirmer, 1997.

Grading

Your grade will consist of the following elements:
25% Attendance/Participation
25% Presentation 1
25% Presentation 2
25% Final Presentation

Presentation 1 should be a song by Schubert or Schumann
Presentation 2 can be a piece by any composer other than that of Presentation 1
For the final presentation, any appropriate German-language piece will be acceptable

Attendance

As this course seeks to help the student develop skills as well as accumulate knowledge, attendance is mandatory and essential. Any unexcused absences will result in a progressive lowering of the student's participation grade. Absences can be excused if an acceptable explanation is given to the instructor, in person or by email, ***before*** the class to be missed. Exceptions can be made in the case of an emergency. In all cases, ***the student*** *is responsible for* ***all material*** *covered in class.*

Class Presentations

For each class presentation, including the final exam, each student will prepare an IPA transcription for a German-language song or aria selected by the student and the instructor jointly. The student will bring copies of the transcription for the instructor and each classmate. Each student will speak their text and sing the selection, and the instructor and classmates will offer critique. Grading will be based on the accuracy of the transcription, the accuracy and clarity of the spoken and sung texts, AND on participation in the discussion of classmate's presentations.

Prior to the Final Presentation, each student will schedule two 30-minute coaching sessions with the instructor, outside of regularly scheduled class time, to coach their Final Presentation piece. The purpose of these sessions will be to learn the basics of preparing for a coaching and using the time effectively to improve performance, particularly as it pertains to diction. The work done in these sessions will be factored into the Final Presentation grade.